

Serial No. 10/796,846
Office Action Dated 1/26/06
Office Action Response dated 3/31/06

REMARKS

These Amendments and Remarks are submitted in response to the Office Action dated January 26, 2006, in which the Examiner:

rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0083825 to Kusuyama; and indicated claims 3-5, 12 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 8-10 were previously withdrawn; claims 1-7 and 11-13 are currently pending. The current Amendment amends claims 1, 12 and 13, and cancels claim 3, leaving claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 11-13 pending upon entrance of the current Amendment.

Regarding the indication of allowable subject matter, claims 12 and 13 have each been rewritten in independent form, to include the recitations of claim 1. Although Applicant transposes Examiner's rejection, for the sake of expediting prosecution of the present application, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the recitations of claim 3, and claim 3 has been cancelled. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments substantially comply with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of claims 1, 12 and 13.

Claims 2, 4, 5-7 and 11 all depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and include additional recitations thereto. Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of the allowable claim 3, and is therefore allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2, 4, 5-7 and 11 are also allowable.

Previously withdrawn claims 8-10 all depend indirectly from an allowable claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8-10 should be reinstated and allowed, at least based on their dependency from an allowable base claim.

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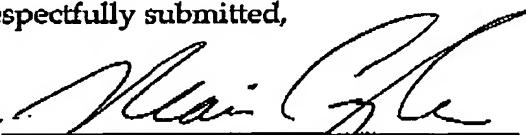
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Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in the current Amendment constitutes new matter. Claim amendments were made to comply with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. As every claim either includes subject matter indicated to be allowable by the Examiner, or depends from such a claim, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 11 be withdrawn, claims 8-10 be reinstated, and claims 1, 2, and 4-13 be passed to issue.

Applicant believes no fees are due in connection with this Amendment and Response. If any fees are deemed necessary, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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